

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A reproduction apparatus which reads and reproduces audio information and other information, from a recording medium where the audio information and the other information are recorded, the reproduction apparatus comprising:

- a reading section for reading, from the recording medium, the audio information and the other information, recorded in a different position, on the recording medium, from a position of the audio information;

- a capacity-lowering section for lowering a capacity of the audio information read by the reading section;

- an audio storing section for storing the audio information having a lowered capacity;

- an audio reproducing section for reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing section;

- an other information storing section for storing the other information read by the reading section; and

- an other information reproducing section for reproducing the other information stored in the other information storing section, wherein

- the audio information includes first audio information and second audio information, the second audio information being continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

- the capacity-lowering section lowers the capacity of the first audio information read by the reading section, such that the second audio information is read before reproduction of the first audio information is completed, during a period of time when the other information is reproduced by the other information reproducing section, and divides the first audio information read by the reading section into a first part whose capacity is lowered by a predetermined capacity-lowering ratio, a second part whose capacity is not lowered, and a third part corresponding to a predetermined interval between the first part and the second part, and whose capacity lowering ratio is gradually changed from the capacity-lowering ratio of the first part to a capacity-lowering ratio of the second part and outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered

~~capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.~~

21. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the other information is at least image information or video information.

22. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section lowers a sampling frequency of the audio information read by the reading section.

23. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section reduces a quantization bit number of the audio information read by the reading section.

24. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section detects at least one of a silent interval, an interlude interval, a prelude interval, and a voiceless interval, in the audio information read by the reading section, and lowers the capacity of only the part which corresponds to at least the one of the silent interval, the interlude interval, the prelude interval, and the voiceless interval.

25. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section changes the capacity-lowering ratio in accordance with a sound volume of the audio information read by the reading section.

26. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section changes the capacity-lowering ratio in accordance with at least either of a change in the sound pitch or a change in the sound loudness of the audio information read by the reading section.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading section, based on the storage capacity of the audio storing section.

29. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the recording medium, where the audio information and the other information are recorded, is a disk-shaped rotary recording medium.

30. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 29, characterized in that on the disk-shaped rotary recording medium, information is recorded using one of a magnetic phenomenon, an optical phenomenon, an electrical phenomenon, and a combination of some of these phenomena.

31. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 30, characterized in that the reading section includes a head, which executes a scan on the disk-shaped rotary recording medium and reads information recorded on the disk-shaped rotary recording medium using one of a magnetic phenomenon, an optical phenomenon, an electrical phenomenon, and a combination of some of these phenomena.

32. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 31, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading section, based on the movement speed of the head.

33. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 32, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading section, based on a movement speed of a head and a storage capacity of the audio storing section.

34. (Previously Presented) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 29, characterized in that the capacity-lowering section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading section, based on the position on the recording medium where the audio information is recorded and the position on the recording medium where the other information is recorded.

35. (Currently Amended) A reproduction processing circuit which reproduces audio information and other information read from a recording medium where the audio information and the other information are recorded, the reproduction processing circuit comprising:

an information deciding section for deciding whether the information read from the recording medium is the audio information or the other information;

a capacity-lowering section for lowering a capacity of the audio information and storing the audio information having a lowered capacity in an audio storing section, if it is determined that the information read from the record medium is the audio information, ; and

an expanding section for expanding the audio information stored in the audio storing section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio information and second audio information, the second audio information being continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

the capacity-lowering section lowers the capacity of the first audio information, expanded by the expanding section, such that the second audio information is read before reproduction of the first audio information is completed, and divides the first audio information read by a reading section into a first part whose capacity is lowered by a predetermined capacity-lowering ratio, a second part whose capacity is not lowered, and a third part corresponding to a predetermined interval between the first part and the second part, and whose capacity lowering ratio is gradually changed from the capacity-lowering ratio of the first part to a capacity-lowering ratio of the second part and outputs a part of the first audio information having a lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.

36. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method for reading and reproducing audio information and other information from a recording medium where the audio information and the other information are recorded, the reproduction method comprising:

reading, from the recording medium, the audio information;
lowering a capacity of the read audio information;
storing, in an audio storing section, the audio information having a lowered capacity;
reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing section,
reading, from the recording medium, the other information recorded in a different position from a position of the audio information;
storing, in an other information storing section, the read other information, and
reproducing the other information stored in the other information storing, wherein
the audio information includes first audio information and second audio information, the second audio information being continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and
the capacity of the read first audio information is lowered, such that the second audio information is read before reproduction of the first audio information is completed, during a period of time when the other information is reproduced, and divides the first audio information read into a first part whose capacity is lowered by a predetermined capacity-lowering ratio, a second part whose capacity is not lowered, and a third part corresponding to a predetermined interval between the first part and the second part, and whose capacity lowering ratio is gradually changed from the capacity-lowering ratio of the first part to a capacity-lowering ratio of the second part, outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which a reproduction program is recorded, the reproduction program for reading and reproducing audio information and other information from a recording medium where the audio information and the other information are recorded, the reproduction program comprising:

a reading section for reading, from the recording medium, the audio information and the other information, recorded in a different position from a position of the audio information;

a capacity-lowering section for lowering a capacity of the audio information read by the reading section;

an audio storing section for storing the audio information having a lowered capacity;

an audio reproducing section for reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing section,

an other information storing section for storing the other information read by the reading section, and

an other information reproducing section for reproducing the other information stored in the other information storing section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio information and second audio information, the second audio information being continuously reproduced after the first audio information, and

the capacity-lowering section lowers the capacity of the first audio information read by the reading section, such that the second audio information is read before reproduction of the first audio information is completed, during a period of time when the other information is reproduced by the other information reproducing section, and divides the first audio information read by a reading section into a first part whose capacity is lowered by a predetermined capacity-lowering ratio, a second part whose capacity is not lowered, and a third part corresponding to a predetermined interval between the first part and the second part, and whose capacity lowering ratio is gradually changed from the capacity-lowering ratio of the first part to a capacity-lowering ratio of the second part outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.